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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PESTICIDES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

MEMORANDUM JAN 27 1983

TO:

Richard Mountfort (23)

Registration Division (TS-767)

THRU:

Orville E. Paynter, Ph.D. Chief, Toxicology Branch

Hazard Evaluation Division (TS-769)

SUBJECT:

Preliminary Report on Repeat Chronic Rat Study of

Metolachlor

CASWELL#188DD

Registrant:

Ciba-Geigy Corporation

P.O. Box 11422

Greensboro, North Carolina 27409

Background Information:

In my memo of October 7, 1981, I reviewed a rat chronic feeding study conducted at IBT (IBT No. 622-07926) that was classified as Supplementary Data and which indicated an increase in primary liver tumors in females. The study has recently been repeated at another laboratory, using a similar protocol and dose levels, and the findings regarding liver neoplasia were noted in the letter of December 9, 1982 from Ciba-Geigy to R. Mountfort, Registration Division, EPA. The preliminary report of that study is discussed below.

Discussion/Recommendation:

The preliminary results of the repeat study confirm and strengthen the results of the earlier study. In the second study

an increased incidence of liver neoplasia is observed in both the male and female high dose groups. The tumor incidences are shown in the following table*:

		Feeding Level (PPM)					
	Sex	0	30	300	3000		
Proliferative Foci (Neoplastic Nodule)	M F	0 0	2 1	0 1	6 5		
Hepatocellular (Carcinoma)	M F	2 0	0	2 1	3 2		
Total Animals with Hepatocellular Carcinoma or Neo- plastic Nodules	M F	2 0	2	2 2	9 7		
Total Animals Examined	M F	60 59	57 60	60 59	60 60		

*This table was presented in the letter of December 9, 1983 from Ciba-Geigy.

It is noted that the tumor incidences for females are similar in the both the original and repeat studies while the rate for high dose males is somewhat greater. Only data on liver neoplasia was available in this preliminary report. Ciba-Geigy has conducted and submitted a risk assessment based on this data; however, a risk assessment based on the repeat study will be performed by EPA after submission and review of the final report for the repeat study.

Chronic Oral, Rats. Conducted at Raltech Scientific Services.

Core Classification: Supplementary Data. (Interim reports on this study were reviewed in my memos of October 7, 1981 and January 26, 1982.) The preliminary findings indicate an increased incidence of liver neoplasia in treated animals.

Gary J. Burin, Toxicologist

Toxicology Branch
Hazard Evaluation Division (TS-769)

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